

This Ability Not Disability!



Hillcrest Advice Bureau's Graduate Sthabiso Percival Phungula.

41 year old Sthabiso Percival Phungula from Embo, near Hillcrest has Polio and got disabled on his left lower limb at the age of six, but, he did not let that get in the way of his success.

After going through so much challenging circumstances in his life, like being in need of financial support to finance his studies, he now works as an enrolled nurse at the Hillcrest Provincial Hospital in Hillcrest.

He studied his early childhood education at Abambo Primary School and Nhlanguano Primary School. Studied high school at Kwabazothini High School and Khabazela High School. He then went to study at Durban Technical College doing Electrical Engineering from N1 to N3. After that he went on to study at Anchorlite College in Durban, doing matric languages IsiZulu and English combined with an N3 Certificate, which also earned him his National Senior Certificate.

Funded by the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation, he got an opportunity to study even further. He enrolled at the St Mary's Hospital Nursing College in 2013 and 2014 doing a nursing course and he obtained an Enrolled Nursing Auxillary Certificate.

He said, "During my years of studying I came across many challenges, one of them being transport money to travel to and from college because my only source of income was my disability grant which I also had to use to support my children. I sometimes even had to miss about two days of classes a week. I would like to say thank you and extend my deepest gratitude to the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation for supporting me and giving me the opportunity to study further and make something better of myself. I am now a qualified graduate and I own a car, to make traveling to work easy. I would also like to thank for helping and supporting other people, giving them an opportunity to reach their goals in life, as well as for providing food parcels to struggling families."

"My advice to the youth is that drugs and alcohol is destroying their future because it leads to crime and unplanned teenage pregnancy. Education is the better way to a successful future. Even if it's hard, you have to understand that nothing in life comes easy, you just need to work hard and have patience", he added.